

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 09-Mar-15 12:55 AM GMT

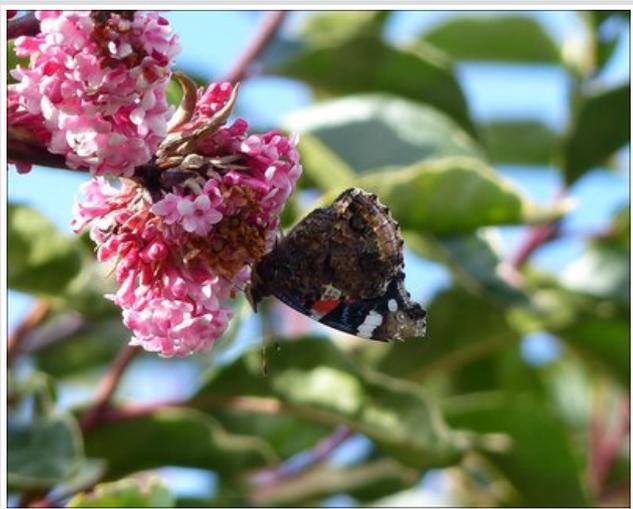
Yippee.

Off we go again.

Lots of Birds and Bees but not many Butterflies. Yet.

After seeing a Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly and a Red Admiral Butterfly wizzing past me yesterday (my first Butterflies of 2015) it was lovely to see some Butterflies resting today.

During a visit to the Gardens at Hall Place (in Bexley) we were fortunate to see two, possibly three Small Tortoiseshells and a single Red Admiral.



**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 30-Mar-15 10:44 PM GMT

After something of a famine I hit the jackpot today with **two** Butterflies; namely a Peacock Butterfly (my first of the year) and a Green-Veined White Butterfly (again, my first of the year).

Both were seen close to the Thames Path in the Crossness area.

And thankfully, I managed a couple of pictures of the Green-Veined White Butterfly:



I'm now looking forward to seeing what some hopefully more settled weather in April will bring.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by David M, 31-Mar-15 06:02 AM GMT

Great stuff, Mike. If Green Veined Whites are out, we can be sure that within the next couple of weeks OTs, Small Coppers, Speckled Woods et al will soon be delighting us!

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 31-Mar-15 06:48 PM GMT

David: Thanks.

I hadn't really expected anything in terms of Butterflies yesterday, concentrating on Birds, Wild Flowers, other Little Critters and a couple of Seals swimming in the Outfall of the Sewage Treatment Works. And then while walking back to the car I spotted the G-VW (difficult to photograph without crashing down a very steep slope!) and added the Peacock after being told where one might be.

Yup; I'm looking forward to Butterfly Watching/Spotting this year and hoping I'll be lucky as I was last year.

Wishing you luck too ~ kind regards ~ Mike ...

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Wurzel, 02-Apr-15 06:32 AM GMT

That's a great find Mike – you've started the season off at a sprint! 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Goldie M, 03-Apr-15 06:34 PM GMT

Your doing well with the sightings so far Mike, wish I could join you Goldie 😊

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Maximus, 04-Apr-15 04:52 AM GMT

Nice shots of the Green-veined White, Mike. It's not yet listed on BC's first sightings of 2015 😊

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Pete Eeles, 04-Apr-15 05:09 AM GMT

**"Maximus" wrote:**

Nice shots of the Green-veined White, Mike. It's not yet listed on BC's first sightings of 2015 😊

Looks like another appearance on March 30th has been noticed: <https://twitter.com/RichardFoxBC/status...4370157568>

Will Tweet this so that Mike's record is recognised also.

Cheers,

– Pete

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 08-Apr-15 02:37 AM GMT

Pete:

Thanks; I think Richard Fox's Picture per his Twitter of 30 March is a Library Picture.

Kind regards ~ Mike ....

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 08-Apr-15 02:47 AM GMT

Wow; it all kicked off today for me down on the Erith Marshes.

After being fortunate enough to see a couple of newly arrived Little Ringed Plovers I was kept busy by the Butterflies.

Lots of Peacocks, forty plus and my first Brimstone, Orange-Tip and Small White Butterflies of the year.

I was particularly pleased to see the Orange-Tip. A gorgeous looking arrangement viz.



**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 08-Apr-15 11:05 PM GMT

Another day and some more Butterflies.

A visit to a local Open Space provided some tip-top views of lots more Peacocks (at least fifteen) and a handful of Small Tortoiseshells; plus I managed some pictures too:





A few weeks ago I had wondered if I would be able to see any Cowslips locally this year.

The place where I had hoped to see some had been the subject of a brutal Strimmer Attack. However, I didn't need to worry; within a couple of weeks of the Attack the Cowslips were beginning to show and many have subsequently flowered.

And today; I saw many more plants in flower. Such as these super looking arrangements:



**Re: Mike Robinson**

by trevor, 09-Apr-15 12:53 AM GMT

Hi Mike,

Your Peacock duet is surely a prize winner. The shot of a lifetime !! 😊.

Very best wishes,  
TREVOR.

### Re: Mike Robinson

by Mike Robinson, 09-Apr-15 01:35 AM GMT

Trevor; you are kind to notice them.  
Thank you.  
Kind regards ~ Mike ...

### Re: Mike Robinson

by bugboy, 09-Apr-15 02:48 AM GMT

I Agree, thats a spectacular Peacock image!

### Re: Mike Robinson

by Neil Freeman, 09-Apr-15 03:02 AM GMT

Me too Mike, great Peacock image, well done.

The Small Tortoiseshells are good too 😊

Cheers,  
Neil

### Re: Mike Robinson

by Wurzel, 09-Apr-15 06:14 AM GMT

Agreed, that is a cracker of a Peacock shot Mike 🍷🍷😊

Have a goodun  
Wurzel

### Re: Mike Robinson

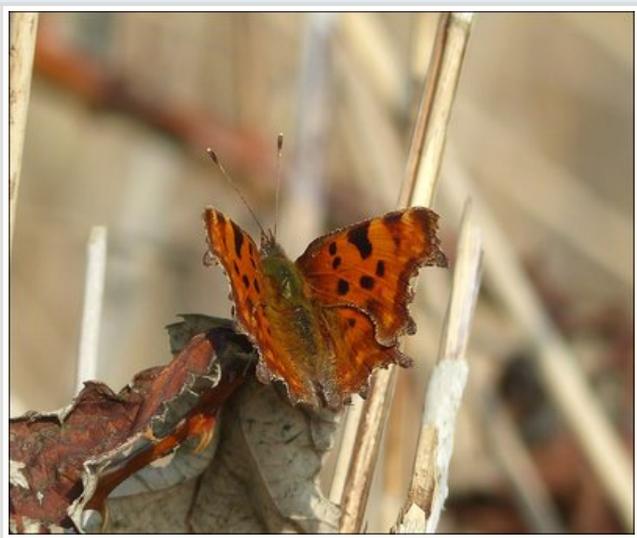
by Mike Robinson, 10-Apr-15 02:08 AM GMT

I hadn't intended to add anything more for a few days (not wanting to outstay my welcome) but I photographed this Comma Butterfly today.

I got a surprise when I looked at the picture on the Computer. Until now, I have thought as Commas being just an Orange colour.

But the colour of this Butterfly is way beyond Orange; for me, it gives off a lovely warm glow.

The light perhaps but to me, the Butterfly looks absolutely stunning.



This Butterfly watching game is really great fun. I really never know what I will stumble across next ...

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by trevor, 10-Apr-15 02:43 AM GMT

Hi Mike,

There is one problem with your Peacock image. I didn't take it!! 😊.

All the best,  
TREVOR.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by bugboy, 10-Apr-15 04:24 AM GMT

I agree Mike, this spring sun, slightly hazy is really bringing out the colours, the reds and oranges really are very rich.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 13-Apr-15 02:11 AM GMT

A trip down to Lesnes Abbey Park and the nearby Woods to hopefully find some Cowslips, a Blackcap and a few Butterflies was fairly successful insofar as I managed to find some Cowslips and Butterflies. However; no Blackcap. But of course, there's always tomorrow.

And anyway; the flowers in the Park and Woods, including Bluebells, Common Dog-Violets, Cowslips, Honesty, Lesser Celandine, Wood Anemones and Wood-Sorrel were looking lovely.

I particularly liked the Common Dog-Violet:



In terms of Butterflies, I spotted 2/3 Brimstones, at least 2 Commas, 10+ Peacocks and at least 2 Small Tortoiseshells.

And I was fortunate enough to see this Brimstone Butterfly flitting from plant to plant in a Bluebell filled clearing:





**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Neil Freeman, 13-Apr-15 06:14 AM GMT

Ah yes!, a Brimstone on a Bluebell, a lovely spring combination 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by millerd, 13-Apr-15 06:16 AM GMT

I'll second that - and so difficult to capture before they move on. Good stuff.

Dave

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-15 02:52 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, your so lucky to have the Blue Bells out so soon, no sign here yet, your Brimstone photos are great really Spring like love the flower pics as well Goldie 😊

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 15-Apr-15 02:32 AM GMT

millerd: thanks for noticing this. I was really lucky since the Butterfly was moving from Bluebell to Bluebell giving me plenty of chances to take pictures. The only other Brimstones I have seen this year have whooshed past me!

Goldie M.: thanks for noticing this. The Wild Daffodils in the local Woods have run their course now and both the Wood Anemones and Bluebells are starting to carpet the ground. I hope you won't have too long to wait for your Bluebells.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 13-Jun-15 09:35 PM GMT

Wow; almost two months to the day since I last added anything.

But I have been out and about; generally locally and thoroughly enjoying myself.

But although it's always nice to see Butterflies &c., I think that for me, the principle joy of looking for Butterflies is to photograph them; and that any photographs will often include some lovely colourful flowers.

Such as we can see here in a couple of recent pictures:



I imagine that others must think the same?

I'm looking forward to lots more in the coming months; hopefully anyway.

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by millerd, 14-Jun-15 04:54 AM GMT

I quite agree, Mike - butterflies are really set off properly by some attractive flowers and it gives a better feel for the memories of the day. 😊 (I think your first butterfly is a male Brown Argus, rather than a Common Blue female, by the way.)

Dave

**Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 14-Jun-15 09:33 AM GMT

Dave,

Howdy.

Thanks very much. I had wondered about the top picture being a Brown Argus Butterfly but plumped for a female Common Blue; I'm not aware of Brown Arguses being seen on the Erith Marshes which is where I saw the Butterfly, so it would be really super-doooper if it is a Brown Argus.

Please see another picture of the Butterfly:



The Butterfly has a noticeable blue sheen. It also has fairly prominent dark spots in the centre of the forewing which, as I understand it, could suggest Brown Argus, although I have seen pictures of female Common Blue Butterflies that appear to have similar markings.

And I have been looking at the abdomen; which seems quite long compared to the, as I understand it, generally shorter version on the female Common Blue Butterfly.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...

### **Re: Mike Robinson**

by Pete Eeles, 14-Jun-15 06:32 PM GMT

Definitely a Brown Argus – the spotting on the underside, and the fact that it is male, make it so 😊

The "Similar Species" section here might help: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/species.php?species=icarus#Similar%20Species>

Cheers,

– Pete

### **Re: Mike Robinson**

by Mike Robinson, 14-Jun-15 11:25 PM GMT

Pete:

Thanks very much. Much appreciated.

Hopefully I'll be more confident in trying to identify them in future.

Kind regards ~ Mike ...